

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application and claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, and 17 have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kawai in view of Du.

Kawai relates to a method for finding what is connected to an IEEE1394 bus and the Office Action at page 2 concedes that Kawai is silent about detecting whether two apparatuses are connected so as to form a loop. Du relates to forming a local area network (LAN) based on wireless connections.

It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to combine Kawai, related to an IEEE1394 bus, with Du, related to a wireless LAN, because Du is not in an analogous art.

Further, in order to determine whether a reference is reasonably pertinent to the inventor's field of endeavor one of the inquiries is to look at the problems confronting the inventor. Heidelberger Druckmaschinen v. Hantscho Commercial Products, 30 USPQ2d 1377 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

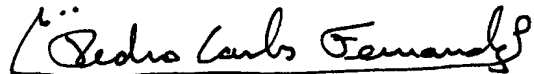
Here, the inventor is overcoming a problem relating to the detection of a loop connection in an IEEE1394 bus. Clearly, the art of forming local area networks using wireless connections would not be investigated by one designing a detection system of a loop connection in an IEEE1394 bus.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Kawai in view of Du.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pedro C. Fernandez". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

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